

CITY OF SYDNEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE BRIEFED ON CONTAMINATION AT BARANGAROO

20 January 2011

A number of inaccurate or misled media reports and web postings have prompted the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to re-present the facts about the clean-up of historic contamination from the former Millers Point Gasworks.

Roads Authority

Allocation of road authority responsibilities to the Barangaroo Delivery Authority for parts of Hickson Road, parts of Sussex Street and Napoleon Street was requested by the Authority so it can progress the contamination clean-up without delay and to facilitate construction of pedestrian links.

This shift in responsibility does not remove the Barangaroo Delivery Authority's commitment to continually engage the City of Sydney and other important stakeholders.

Meetings with the City of Sydney

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority and the City of Sydney have been consulting since 2006 on the remediation of the former gasworks. The City of Sydney is fully aware of the internationally tested remediation method the Barangaroo Delivery Authority intends to trial.

Importantly, in February 2010 the City of Sydney chose not to be involved in the development of the proposal to remediate the land.

To progress the vital works without delay, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority has consulted with and sought the cooperation of the City of Sydney since June 2010 to simply obtain landowners consent to undertake the trials under Hickson Road.

Timing of the clean-up remains crucial and the Barangaroo Delivery Authority had no confidence that the Council would provide land owners consent in order to meet the remediation program as agreed by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

Therefore, it was necessary to explore alternative options for access to Hickson Road in order to carry out the necessary remediation of the Declaration Area.

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will continue to brief the City of Sydney on all aspects of remediation. Indeed, the City of Sydney has a standing meeting with the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to discuss and collaborate on all related issues.



Declared Remediation Site Area (May 2009 - current)



Roads for which the Barangaroo Delivery Authority is to be the Roads Authority – part Hickson Road, part Sussex Street, Napoleon Street

Independent Oversight on behalf of the Community

In the interests of public safety and the environment, strict legislation and best practice benchmarks exist to lead the remediation (clean-up) process. In taking on the job of cleaning up the underground contamination, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority is bound by law to follow a detailed and independently audited due process and reporting structure to ensure the best possible job is done.

This rigorous process is regulated closely by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

To provide further checks and balances, an independent and respected Site Auditor, accredited by DECCW, will review all aspects of the relevant remediation works. The Site Auditor, Graeme Nyland, will issue Site Audit Statements certifying the suitability of the remediated land only when satisfied that the remediation works have been completed in accordance with the statutory process and DECCW's requirements.

To give even further assurance to the public, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority has agreed to provide regular updates to the City of Sydney Council and Ian Kiernan on behalf of Clean-Up Australia.

World's best practice is being followed in the public interest.

The Declared Contamination Area

As outlined in the photo attached, the declared area requiring remediation is approximately 2 hectares in total. This includes a portion of the 22 hectare Barangaroo site and part of Hickson Road.

To determine the declared contamination area, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) over saw a major investigation from 2007 to 2009 of a far greater area. In addition, the City of Sydney undertook testing of Hickson Road, and other testing was conducted at 30 to 38 Hickson Road.

The remainder of the Barangaroo site was not identified by DECCW as being significantly contaminated and is not in the Declaration Area. Nevertheless, these areas need some minor remediation work.

Who will pay for the remediation?

The remediation process itself will determine the final extent of liability held by those responsible for the contamination.

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will initiate the remediation works, funded by Barangaroo developer payments, and then will pursue legal proceedings where necessary to recover remediation costs from the responsible parties.

More Detail

www.barangaroo.com/remediation
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/clm/faq.htm